

DATE: 11/03/2008
TIME: 8:35 A.M.
ACTIVITY: Rod Blagojevich home line incoming call.
SESSION: 117

SPEAKERS:

BLAGOJEVICH: Rod Blagojevich
HARRIS: John Harris

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1 BLAGOJEVICH Hey.
2 HARRIS Hey, how are you?
3 BLAGOJEVICH Okay. How you doin?
4 HARRIS Yeah, just typing up, uh, kind of
5 remarks slash process for you.
6 BLAGOJEVICH Right.
7 HARRIS So I'll, I'll fax it to you this
8 morning. Give me an idea of your
9 reaction. This kind of takes into
10 consideration, uh, Knapp's issues and
11 concerns, so.
12 (PAUSE)
13 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah we have to consider, yeah, Q and A
14 too you know.
15 HARRIS Yeah.
16 (PAUSE)
17 HARRIS Still think McCain can pull it off?
18 (Chuckles)
19 BLAGOJEVICH You don't?
20 HARRIS (Laughs) I doubt it.
21 * * * * *

1 HARRIS I've read papers, we've read papers, we
2 you know, we know, we know what the
3 rumors are out there, but again...

4 BLAGOJEVICH So he's talking about Valerie Jarrett?

5 HARRIS Yeah. So he said well do you think it
6 would be helpful for Barack to call Rod?
7 I said, well if he has strong feelings
8 about somebody I would imagine he would.
9 He wouldn't leave it to osmosis or, you
10 know, the media, I would hope. Uh, so
11 you may get a call from him or Dave.

12 BLAGOJEVICH Dave who?

13 HARRIS Axelrod.

14 BLAGOJEVICH Oh yeah.

15 HARRIS But I, what I was trying to say is, you
16 know, we're not waiting to hear from...
17 and I, I didn't mention her name but
18 like the Marilyn Katz's and all the
19 other kind of people...

20 BLAGOJEVICH This is good. So...

21 HARRIS ...hanging around out there, but it
22 sounds as though, at least if you're
23 gonna believe Rahm, that he very much
24 cares about this and, uh, has a
25 definite, uh, desire for Valerie.
26 Because he didn't mention, uh, Tammy.
27 He would've mentioned Tammy. Because he
28 said very close to him, somebody very
29 close to him. Obviously Tammy's not
30 very close to him.

31 BLAGOJEVICH Okay. Now, we should get something for
32 that, couldn't I?

33 HARRIS Yes. And I said, well if that's the
34 case I'm sure there'll, there'll need to
35 be more discussions. So, (Chuckles)
36 and, but they ought to start with him
37 expressing his interest. 'Cause up to
38 now, frankly, we haven't heard anything

1 but we can understand that because he's
2 busy campaigning. So, you know, it
3 hasn't been the time.

4 BLAGOJEVICH How about Health and Human Services?
5 Can I get that?

6 HARRIS I think now that he cares a lot about it
7 and he's willing to make the call, yeah,
8 I think, uh, you know, this is what I
9 was trying to explain to Knapp. I was
10 like, they gotta ask. We can't just go
11 out there start calling people.

12 BLAGOJEVICH What can I, honestly, think I could, I
13 might have a shot at getting?

14 HARRIS Umm, well besides good thing for Illin-
15 ...good things for Illinois, umm...

16 * * * * *

17 HARRIS ...uh, for example, if it's, if he
18 thinks Emil's your, your top, you know,
19 at the top of your short list.

20 BLAGOJEVICH It's, it's got no b...no bargaining
21 power at all.

22 HARRIS It's got no bargaining power.

23 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

24 HARRIS That's what I'm trying to...

25 BLAGOJEVICH Correct.

26 HARRIS ..so I think, when you say...

27 BLAGOJEVICH Right, so.

28 HARRIS ...what can I realistically get, it
29 really depends on what's our realistic
30 alternative?

31 BLAGOJEVICH Go ahead. Who is there?

32 HARRIS Uh...

1 BLAGOJEVICH Bill Daley.

2 HARRIS Bill Daley.

3 BLAGOJEVICH Lisa Madigan.

4 HARRIS Lisa Madigan.

5 BLAGOJEVICH That's right.

6 HARRIS Um...

7 BLAGOJEVICH It's Lisa Madigan.

8 HARRIS Yeah. In terms of credible bargaining
9 power. So it's a very delicate
10 negotiation then.

11 BLAGOJEVICH Think we should leak it to Sneed about
12 Lisa Madigan?

13 HARRIS We're gonna have to do something to get
14 it out there.

15 BLAGOJEVICH In other words, that, you know, Madigan,
16 you know, a scenario where...

17 HARRIS (UI)

18 BLAGOJEVICH ...we get health care we get...

19 HARRIS The two Madigans approached, you know,
20 send, uh, you know, a message to the
21 governor, blah, blah, blah, something
22 like that, about Lisa.

23 BLAGOJEVICH Do me a favor, look up Health and Human
24 Services. Who, who's been there before.
25 Tommy Thompson, all these people, right?

26 HARRIS Alright, I'll take care of that now.

27 BLAGOJEVICH Do you think he promised it to somebody
28 else?

29 HARRIS Did who promise it to somebody?

30 BLAGOJEVICH Obama.

1 HARRIS Oh I don't know.

2 BLAGOJEVICH Other governors but then again?

3 HARRIS No.

4 BLAGOJEVICH Huh?

5 HARRIS No. I mean the mo-, you know, he, could
6 he have promised surgeon general to Eric
7 Whitaker? Maybe, you know, something
8 like that, but not the... not Health and
9 Human Services.

10 BLAGOJEVICH I mean, what other Cabinet position
11 would be not stupid? How about U.N.
12 ambassador? Ridiculous?

13 HARRIS Yeah, I don't think that's, ah,
14 realistic or serious.

15 BLAGOJEVICH Right.

16 BOTH (Chuckles)

17 BLAGOJEVICH Shit, that'd be cool, huh?

18 HARRIS Yeah.

19 BLAGOJEVICH Start puttin' down, get, Health and
20 Human Services.

21 * * * * *

22 HARRIS Wednesday, if we say something
23 publically about your process...

24 BLAGOJEVICH Mm-hmm.

25 HARRIS It's got to be very supportive of the
26 president-elect's agenda.

27 BLAGOJEVICH No question.

28 HARRIS So that way, you know, people don't
29 think you're trying to undermine his
30 agenda.

1 BLAGOJEVICH Right. And, and, and, and I'm, very
2 much want to hear what his views are
3 and, and any suggestions he might have.

4 HARRIS Sure, absolutely, publically even ask
5 for it, right.

6 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah. Mm-hmm.

7 HARRIS Alright sir.

8 BLAGOJEVICH Okay, we have to talk this through
9 today.

10 HARRIS Right.

11 BLAGOJEVICH Alright. I'll see you.

12 HARRIS Bye.

13 BLAGOJEVICH Bye.